Tarltons Jests.

Drawne into these three parts.

1 *His Court-witty Iests.*
2 *His sound City Iests.*
3 *His Countrey-pretty Iests.*

Full of delight, Wit, and honest Mirth.

LONDON,
Printed by *I. H.* for *Andrew Crook*, and are to be sold in *Pauls* Church-yard, at the signe of the *Beare*. 1638.

BY C. LEWIS.

A — I, 119

The rarity of this collection of Jests will not surprise any one who considers the popular character of such publications, and the rough treatment they consequently undergo. — The reprint by the Shakespeare Society does not follow the orthography of this edition with even tolerable accuracy; but may perhaps be in accordance with that of 1611, which I have not seen. Mr. Halliwell, the editor, has omitted two of the Jests from motives of delicacy; but if these are excluded on the score of grossness, most readers will be of opinion that his standard of propriety must be regulated by extremely nice degrees of comparison.

Mr. Macaulay in his History of Engld. Vol. 1. p. 393 speaks of Tarlton's Jests as one of the favourite books of Country Gentlemen about the period of the Revolution.

Title, and B.l. are in facsimile. It has been stated that no perfect copy is known.

+

1933 f. 42

Tarltons Jests.

Drawne into these three parts.

1 *His Court-witty Iests.*
2 *His sound City Iests.*
3 *His Countrey-pretty Iests.*

Full of delight, Wit, and honest Mirth.

LONDON,
Printed by *I. H.* for *Andrew Crook*, and are to be sold in *Pauls* Church-yard, at the signe of the *Beare*. 1638.

Facsimile of Title page of Ed 1638 of Tarltons Jests in the Bodleian Li

Tarltons *Court witty Jests.*

How *Tarlton* plaid the Drunkard before the Queene.

THe Quéene being discontented: which Tarlton perceiuing, took vpon him to delight her with some quaint iest: whereupon he counterfaited a Drunkard, and called for Béere, which was brought immediately. Her Maiestie noting his humor, commanded that hée should haue no more: for (quoth shée) he wil play the beast, and so shame himselfe. Feare not you (quoth Tarlton) for your Béere is small enough. Whereat her Maiestie laughed heartily, and commaund that he should haue enough.

How *Tarlton* deceiued the watch in Fleetstreet.

TArlton hauing béene late at Court, and comming homewards thorow Flétstrét, he espi'd the Watch, and not knowing how to passe them, hée went very fast, thinking by that meanes to goe vnexamined. But the Watch men perceiuing that hee shunned them, stept to him, and commanded him in the Queenes name to stand. Stand, quoth Tarlton: let them stand that can, for I cannot. So falling downe, as though he had beene drunke, they helpt him vp, and so let him passe.

Facsimile of Title page of Ed 1638 of Tarltons Jests in the Bodleian

Tarltons *Court witty Jests.*

How *Tarlton* plaid the Drunkard before the Queene.

THe Queene being discontented: which Tarlton perceiuing, took vpon him to delight her with some quaint iest: whereupon he counterfaited a Drunkard, and called for Beare, which was brought immediately. Her Maiestie noting his humor, commanded that hee should haue no more: for (quoth shee) he will play the beast, and so shame himselfe. Feare not you (quoth Tarlton) for your Beere is small enough. Whereat her Maiestie laughed heartily, and commanded that he should haue enough.

How *Tarlton* deceiued the watch in Fleetstreet.

TArlton hauing beene late at Court, and comming homewards thorow Fléetstréet, he espi'd the Watch, and not knowing how to passe them, hée went very fast, thinking by that meanes to goe vnexamined. But the Watch men perceiuing that hee shunned them, stept to him, and commanded him in the Queenes name to stand. Stand, quoth Tarlton: let them stand that can, for I cannot. So falling downe, as though he had beene drunke, they helpt him vp, and so let him passe.

How *Tarlton* flowted a Lady in the Court.

VPon a time, Tarlton being among certaine Ladies at a banquet, which was at Greenewich, the Queene then lying there, one of the Ladies had her face ful of pimples with heat at her stomake, for which cause she refused to drinke wine amongst the rest of the Ladies: which Tarlton perceiuing (for he was there of purpose to iest amongst thē) quoth he, Amurren of that face, which makes all the body fare the worse for it. At which the rest of the Ladies laught, & she (blushing for shame) left the banquet.

Tarltons opinion of Oysters.

CErtaine Noble men and Ladies of the Court, being eating of Oysters, one of them seeing Tarlton, called him, & asked him if he loued Oysters. No (quoth Tarlton) for they be vngodly meat, vncharitable meat, and vnprofitable meat. Why, quoth the Courtiers? They are vngodly, sayes Tarlton, because they are eaten without grace, vncharitable, because they leaue nought but shels: and vnprofitable, because they must swim in wine.

Tarltons resolution of a question.

ONe of the company taking the Gentlemans part, asked Tarlton at what time he thought the Diuell to be most busied. Whē the Pope dies, quoth he) Why, saies the Courtier? Marry (answered he) then all the deuills are troubled and busied to plague him: for he hath sent many a soule before him thither, that exclaim against him.

How a prasonage fell into *Tarltons* hands

HEr Maiestie dining in the Strand at the Lord Treasurers, the Lord were very desirous that she would vouch

vouchsafe to stay al night: but nothing could prevaile with her. Tarlton was in his Clownes apparell, being all dinner while in ỹ presence with her, to make her merry, and hearing the sorrow that the Noblemen made, that they could not worke her stay, he asked the Nobles what they would giue him to worke her stay, The Lords promised him any thing, to performe it; quoth he, Procure me the Parsonage of Shard. They caused the patent to be drawn presently: he got on a Parsons gowne and a copper Cap, and standing vpon the staires, wher ỹ Queene should descend, he repeated these words: A Parson, or no Parson? A Parson, or no Parson: but after she knew his meaning, shee not only stayd all night. but the next day willed hee should haue possession of the Benefice. A madder Parson was neuer, for he threatned to turne the Bel-mettle into lyning for his purse, which he did, the Parsonage and all, into ready money.

How *Tarlton* proued two Gentlewomen dishonest by their owne words.

TArlton seeing in Greenwich 2 Gentlewomen in the Garden together, to moue mirth, comes to them, and enquires thus: Gentlewomẽ, which of you two is the honester? I, sayes the one, I hope without exceptions: and I, quoth the other, since we must speak for our selues: so then, sayes Tarlton, one of you by your owne words is dishonest, one being honester then the other, else you would answere otherwise. but as I found you, so I leaue you.

How *Tarlton* answered a wanton Gentlewoman.

A Gentlewomã merily disposed, being crost by Tarlton & halfe angry, said, Sirra, a little thing would make mee requite you with a cuffe: with a cuffe, Lady, sayes Tarlton so would you spel my sorrow forward: but spell my sorrow backward, then cuffe me and spare not: when

the Gentlemen by considered of the word, they laughing made the simple-meaning Gentlewoman to blush for shame.

How *Tarlton* dared a Lady.

AT the Dinner in the great Chamber where Tarlton iested, the Ladies were daring one another: quoth one, I dare durst any thing that is honest & Honourable. A French crowne of that, sayes Tarlton. Ten pound of that, sayes the Lady. Done, sayes one. Done sayes another. Tarlton put two pence betwixt his lips, and dared her to take it away with her lips. Fie, sayes shée, that is immodesty. What, to kisse, sayes Tarlton? then immodesty beares a great hand ouer all: but once in your life say, you haue béene beaten at your owne weapon. Well, Sir, sayes she, you may say any thing. Then, sayes Tarlton, remember, I say, you dare not, & so my wager is good.

How *Tarlton* landed at Cuckolds hauen.

TArlton being one Sunday at Court all day, caused a paire of Oares to tẽd him, who at night called on him to be gone. Tarlton being a carousing, drunk so long to the Watermen, that one of them was bumpsie, and so indeed were al thrée for the most part: at last they left Grænwich the Tide being at a great lowfall, the Watermen yet afrayd of the Crosse Cables by the Lime-house, very darke and late as it was, landed Tarlton at Cuckolds-hauen, & said, the next day they would giue him a reason for it: But Tarlton was faine to goe by land to Redriffe on the dirty banke, euery step knée-déepe: so that comming home, hée called one of his boyes to help him off with his boots, meaning his stockings, which were died of another colour. Where vpon one gaue him this theame the nert day:

Tarlton, tell me: for fayne would I know,
If thou wert landed at Cuckolds-hauen or no?

Tarlton

Tarlton answered thus:

Yes, Sir, and I tak't in no scorne.
For many land there, yet misse of the horne.

How *Tarlton* fought with blacke Dauie.

NOt long since liued a little swaggerer, called Blacke Dauie, who would at Sword & Buckler fight with any Gentleman or other, for twelue pence: he being hired to draw vpõ Tarlton, for breaking a iest vpõ huffing Kate, a Punke, as men termed her: one euening, Tarlton comming forth at the Court gate, being at Whitehall, & walking toward the Tilt-yard, this Dauie immediately drew vpon Tarlton: who on the sudden, though amazed, drew likewise, and enquired the cause: which Dauie denied, til they had fought about or two. Tarlton courageously got within him, and taking him in his armes, threw him into the Tilt-yard, who falling vpõ his nose, broke it extremely, that euer after he snuffled in the head? poore Dauie lying al that night in the Tilt-yard, expecting the doores to be opened, came forth, and at the Barber-surgeons told of this bloudy combat: and the occasion of it was (quoth he) because Tarlton being in a Tauerne, in the company of this damnable Cockatrice, huffing Kate, called for wine: but shee told him, That without he would burnt it, shee would not drinke. No, quoth Tarlton, it shal be burnt, for thou canst burne it without fire. As how, Sir (quoth she?) Mary thus. Take the Cup in thine hand, and I will tell thee. So he filling the cup in her hand, said, it was burnt sufficiẽtly in so firy a place: she perceiuing her selfe so flouted, hired me to be her Champiõ, to reuenge her quarrell.

How *Tarlton* answered the Watchmen, comming from the Court.

TArlton hauing plaied before ỳ Queen till one a clock at midnight, comming homewards, one of thẽ espied him,

him, called him, Wirra, what art thou? A woman, sayes Tarlton. Nay, that is a lye, say the Watchmen: women haue no such beards. Tarlton replyed, if I should haue said a man, that you know to be true, and would haue bidden me, tel you that you know not, therefore I said a woman, and so I am all woman hauing pleased the Queene, being a woman. Well, sirra, sayes another, I present the Queene: then am I a woman indeed, sayes Tarlton, as wel as you, for you haue a beard as wel as I, & truly Mistris Annis, my buske is not done yet: when will yours? leaue thy gibing, fellow saith the Watch, the Queenes will is, That whosoeuer is taken without dores after ten a clocke, shall bee committed, and now it is past one: commit all such, sayes Tarlton, for if it be past one a clocke, it will not be ten this eight houres: with that one lifts vp his Lanthorne, and lookes him in the face, & knew him: indeed M. Tarlton you haue more wit then all we, for it is true, that ten was before one, but now one is before ten: it is true, quoth Tarlton, Watch-men had wont to haue more wit, but for want of sleepe they are turned fooles: so Tarlton stole from them: & they to seeme wise, went home to bed.

Tarltons answer to a Courtier.

TArlton being at the Court al night, in the morning he met a great Courtier comming frō his Chamber who espying Tarlton, said: God morrow, M. Didimus and Tridimus: Tarlton being some what abashed, not knowing the meaning thereof, said: Sir, I vnderstand you not, expound, I pray you: quoth the Courtier, Didimus and Tridimus, is a foole and a knaue: you ouerload mee, replied Tarlton, for my backe cannot beare both: therefore take you the one, and I will take the other: take you the knaue, and I will carry the foole with mee.

Tarlton

Tarltons quip for a yong Courtier.

THere was a young Gentleman in the Court, that had first lien with the Mother, and after with the Daughter, and hauing so done, asked Tarlton what it resembled: quoth he, As if you should first haue eaten the Hen, and after the Chicken.

Tarltons answere to a Noblemans question.

THere was a Nobleman that asked Tarlton what hee thought of Souldiers in time of Peace. Marry (quoth he) they are like Chimnies in Summer.

Tarltons Iest to an vnthrifty Courtier.

THere was an vnthriftie Gallant belonging to the Court, that had borrowd fiue pounds of Tarleon: but hauing lost it at Dice, he sent his man to Tarlton to borrow fiue pounde more, by the same token hee owed him already fiue pounds, Pray tel your Master (quoth Tarlton) that if he will send me the token, I will send him the money: for who deceiues me once, God forgiue him: if twice, God forgiue him: but if thrice, God forgiue him, but not me, because I could not beware.

How *Tarlton* flouted two Gallants.

TArlton being in a merry vaine, as hee walked in the great Hall in Greenwitch, hee met my old Lord Chamberlaine, going betweene two fantasticke Gallants, and cryed aloud vnto him, my Lord, my Lord, you goe in great danger: whereat amazed, hee asked whereof: of drowning (quoth Tarlton) were it not for those two bladders vnder each of your armes.

Tarltons *sound City Iests.*

Tarltons iest of a red face.

TO an Ordinary in White Fryers, where Gentlemen vsed, by reason of extraordinary diet, to this Tarlton often frequented, as well to continue acquaintance as to please his appetite. It chanced so vpon a time (especially) being set amongst the Gentlemen and Gallants, they enquired of him, why melancholy had got the vpper hand of his mirth; to which he said little, but with a squint eye (as custome had made him hare eyed) hee looked for a Iest to make them merry. At last hee espied one that sate on his left side, which had a very red face, he being a very great Gentleman, (which was all one to Tarlton) hee presently in great haste called his Host: Who doe I serue (my Host) quoth Tarlton: The Queenes Maiestie, replied the Good man of the house. How happens it then, quoth Tarlton, that (to her Maiesties disgrace) you dare make me a compaion with Seruingmen, clapping my Lord Shandoyes Cullisance vpon my sleeue, looking at the Gentleman with the red face; mee thinkes, quoth he, it sits like the Saracens head without Newgate, The Gentlemans Salamanders face burnt like Etna for anger The rest laughed heartily In the end (all enraged) the Gentleman swore to fight with him at next meeting.

A suddenand dangerous fray, twixt a Gentleman and *Tarlton*, which he put off with a iest.

AS Tarlton and others passed along Fleet-street he espied a spruse yong Gallant, black of complexion with long haire hanging downe ouer his eares. and his beard of the

Italian

Italian cut, in white Sattin, very quaintly cut, and his body so stiffely starcht, that he could not bend himself, any way for no gold. Tarlton, seeing such a wonder comming, trips before him, and meeting this Gallant, toke the wall of him, knowing that one so proud, at least loked for the prerogative. The Gallant scorning that a Player should take the wall, or so much indignifie him, turnes himself, & presently drew his Rapier. Tarlton, drew likewise. The Gentleman fell to it roundly: but Tarlton (in his owne defence) compassing and traversing his ground, gaped with a wide mouth, whereat the people laughed. The Gentleman pausing, enquired why he gaped so. O Sir, saies he, in hope to swallow you: for by my troth, you seem to me like a Prune in a messe of white Broth. At this the people parted them. The Gentleman noting his mad humour, went his way well contented: for he knew not how to amend it.

Tarltons Iest of a Pippin.

AT the Bull in Bishops-gate-street, where the Queenes Players oftentimes played, Tarlton comming on the Stage, one frō the Gallery threw a Pippin at him. Tarlton toke vp the Pip, and loking on it, made this sudden iest.

Pip in, or nose in, chuse you whether,
Put yours in, ere I put in the other.
Pippin you haue put in: then, for my grace,
Would I might put your nose in another place.

A Iest of an Apple hitting *Tarlton* on the face.

TArlton hauing flouted the fellow for his pippin which hee threw, hee thought to bee met with Tarlton at length, So in the Play Tarltons part was to trauell, who kneeling down to aske his father blessing, the fellow threw an Apple at him, which hit him on the cheek, Tarlton taking vp the Apple, made this Iest.

Gentlemen, this fellow, with this face of Mapple,
In stead of a Pippin, hath throwne me an Apple.
But as for an Apple, he hath cast a Crab,
So in stead of an honest woman God hath sent him a drab.

The people laughed heartily, for he had a Queane to his wife.

How *Tarlton* and one in the Gallery fell out.

IT chanced that in the midst of a Play, after long expectation for Tarlton: being much desired of the people, at length hee came forth: where (at his entrance) one in the Gallerie pointed his finger at him, saying to a friend that had never seene him, That is he. Tarlton, to make sport at the least occasion given him, and seeing the man point with one finger, he in loue againe held vp two fingers: the captious fellow, iealous of his wife, (for he was married) and because a Player did it, took the matter more painfully, and asked him why he made hornes at him? No (quoth Tarlton) they be fingers:

For there is no man, which in loue to me,
Lends me one finger, but he shall haue three,

No, no, sayes the fellow, you gaue me the hornes. True (sayes Tarlon) for my fingers are tipt with nailes, which are like hornes, and I must make a shew of that which you are sure of. This matter grew so, that the more he meddled the more it was for his disgrace: wherefore the standers by counselled him to depart, both hee and his hornes, lest his cause grew desperate. So the poore fellow, plucking his hat ouer his eyes, went his wayes.

How Fiddlers fiddled away *Tarltons* apparell.

IT chanced that one Fancy and Nancy, two Musicians in London, vsed often with their boyes to visit Tarlton, when he dwelt in Gracious-street at the signe of the Saba,

a Tauerne, he being one of there best friends or benefactors, by reason of old acquaintance: to requite which, they came one Summers morning to play him The Hunt's vp, with such Musicke as they had. Tarlton, to requite them, would open his chamber doore, and for their paines would giue them Pusshadine: which a Cony-catcher noting, and seeing Tarlton came forth in his shirt and nightgowne to drinke with these Musicians, the while this nimble fellow kept in, and tooke Tarltons apparell, which euery day he wore, thinking that if he were espied, to turne it to a iest: but it past for currant, and he goes his wayes. Not long after, Tarlton returned to his chamber, & looked for his cloathes: but they were safe enough from him. The next day this was noised abroad. and one in mockage threw him this Theame, he playing then at the Curtaine:

Tarlton, I will tell thee a iest,
Which after turned to earnest
One there was, as I heard say,
Who in his shirt heard Musicke play,
While all his clothes were stolne away.

Tarlton smiling at this, answered on the sudden thus:
That,s certaine, Sir, it is no lie:
That same one in truth was I,
When that the theefe shall pine and lacke,
Then shall I haue clothes to my backe:
And I, together with my fellowes,
May see them ride to Tiborne Gallowes.

Of *Tarlton* and a begger.

There was a poore begger, but a conceited fellow, who seeing Tarlton at his doore, asked something of him for Gods cause. Tarlton putting his hand in his pocket, gaue him two pence stead of a penny: at which Tarlton made this Ryme;

Of all the Beggers most happy thou art,
For to thee mine hand is better then my heart.

Quoth the Begger:

True it is, Master, as it chanceth now:
The better for me, and the worse for you.

How *Tarlton* deceiued a Doctor of Physicke.

TArlton, to satisfie the humours of certain Gentlemen his familiar acquaintance, went about for to try the skill of a simple Doctor of Physick, that dwelt not far from Islington, and thus it was: he tooke a faire Urinall, and filled it halfe full of good Wine, and broze it to this Doctor, saying it was a sick mans water: he viewed it, and rolling it vp and down, as though hee had great knowledge: quoth he. The Patient whose water it is, is full of grosse humors, and hath need of purging, and to be let some ten ounces of blood. No, you Dunce, replyed Tarlton, it is good pisse, and with that drunke it off, and threw the Urinall at his head.

How *Tarlton* frighted a Countrey fellow.

TArlton passing through London, by chance he heard a simple Country fellow in an Ale-house, calling for a Kingstone pot of Ale, stept in to him, and threatned to accuse him of treason: saying, Sirra, I haue seene and tasted of a penny pot of Ale, and haue found good of the price, but of a Kingstone coyne I neuer heard: therefore it is some counterfet, and I must know how thou camest by it: hereupon, the country fellow was driuen into such a maze, that out of doores he got, and tooke him to his heeles, as though wild-fire had followed him.

How

How *Tarlton* was deceiued by his Wife in London.

TArlton, being merrily disposed, as his Wife & he sate together, he said vnto her Kate, answer me to one question, without a lye, and take this crown of gold which she tooke on condition, that if she lost, to restore it back againe. Quoth Tarlton, am I a Cuckold or no, Kate? Whereat she answered not a word, but sate silent: notwithstanding he urged her many wayes. Tarlton seeing shee would not speake, askt his gold again: why, quoth shee haue I made any lye? no, sayes Tarlton: why then good man foole, I haue won the wager. Tarlton mad with anger, made this Rime.

As women in speech can reuile a man;
So can they in silence beguile a man.

One askt *Tarlton* what Country man the Diuell was,

IN Carter Lane dwelt a merry Cobler, who being in company with Tarlton, askt him what Country-man the Diuell was: quoth Tarlton, a Spaniard? for Spaniards like the Diuell, trouble the whole world.

A Cheese-mongers question to *Tarlton*

IN time of scarsitie, a simple Cheese-monger hearing Tarlton commended for his quicke wit, came vnto him and asked him why he thought Cheese and Butter to be so deare: Tarlton answered, Because Wood and Coles are so deare, for Butter & Cheese a man may eate without a fire.

Tarltons answere to a rich Londoner.

TArlton, meeting a rich Londoner, fel into talk about the Bishop of Peterborough, highly praising his bountie

to his seruants, his liberality to strangers, his great hospitality & charity to the poore. He doth well, sayes the rich man, for what he hath, he hath but during his life; Why (quoth Tarlton) for how many liues haue you your goods?

How *Tarlton* gaue away his dinner.

As Tarlton and his wife sate at dinner, his wife being displeased with him, and thinking to crosse him, she gaue away halfe his meat vnto a poore Begger, saying, Take this for my other husbands sake. Whereupon Tarlton tooke all that was left, and likewise bade the poore fellow to pray for his other wiues soule.

Tarltons answere to a Boy in a Ryme.

There was a crackrope Boy, meeting Tarlton in London street, sung this Rime vnto Tarlton:

Woe worth thee *Tarlton*,
That euer thou wast borne:
Thy Wife hath made thee Cuckold,
And thou must weare the horne.

Tarlton presently answered him in Extempore.

What and if I be (Boy)
I'me ne're the worse:
She keepes me like a Gentleman,
With mony in my purse.

How *Tarlton* bade himselfe to dinner to my Lord Maiors.

A Iest came in Tarltons head where to dine: & thought he, in all that a man does, let him aime at the fairest: for

for sure if I bid my selfe any where this day, it shall bee to my Lord Maiors: and vpon this goes to the Counter, and entered his action against my Lord Maior, who was presently told of it, and sends for him. Tarlton waites dinner time and then comes, who was admitted presently. Master Tarlton (saies my Lord Maior) haue you entered an action against me in the Poultry Counter? My Lord (saies Tarlton) haue you entred an action against mée in Woodstreet Counter? Not I in troth saies my Lord. No (saies Tarlton) he was a villaine that told me so then: but if it bee not so, forgiue me this fault; my Lord, and I will neuer offend in the next. But in the end he begins to sweare, how he will be reuenged on him that mockt him, & flings out in a rage. But my Lord said, Stay, M. Tarlton, dine with me, and no doubt but after dinner you will be better minded. I will try that, my Lord, saies Tarlton & if it alter mine anger, both mine enemy & I will thanke you together for this courtesie

Tarltons Iest of a box on the eare.

One that fell out with his friend, métes him in the street, and calling him into a corner, gaue him a box on the eare, and fold him, getting him gone, and neuer told wherefore he did so: which Tarlton beholding, raised vp the fellow, and asked him the reason of there sudden falling out. Can you tell, Sir, said the fellow: for by my troth as yet I cannot: Well said Tarlton, the more fole you: for had I such feeling of the cause, my wit would remember the iniurie: but many men are goslings; the more they féele, the lesse they conceiue.

Tarltons Iest to two Tailors.

Tarlton méeting two Tailors (friends of his) in the euening, in mirth cries, Who goes there? A man, answered a Tailor: How many is there, one: Yea, said Tarlton: two, said the other Tailor: then you say true,

said Tarlton: for two Taylors got to a man, But before they parted, they left Tarlton at the Castle in Pater noster Row, that Tarlton confest them two Taylors to be honest men. So what they spent in the purse, they got in the person, Comming but one, by Tarltons account, they returned, two. But Tarlton comming one, returned lesse by his wit: for that was shrunke in the wetting.

How *Tarlton* iested at his Wife.

TArlton and his wife keeping an Ordinarie in Paternoster Row, were bidden out to Supper: and because he was a man noted, shee would not goe with him in the street, but intreats him to keepe one side, and she another: which he consented to. But as he went, hee would cry out to her, and say, Turne that way, wife: and anon, On this side, wife. So the people flockt the more to laugh at them. But his wife (more then mad angry) goes backe againe, and almost forswore his company.

How *Tarlton* committed a Rakers horse to Ward.

WHen Tarlton dwelt in Gracious-street, at a Tauern at the signe of the Saba, he was chosen Scauenger: and often the Ward complained of his slacknes, in keeping the streets cleane. So on a time, when the Cart came, he asked the Raker why he did his businesse so slackly. Sir (said he) my fore horse was in the fault, who being let blood and drencht yesterday, I durst not labour him. Sir (said Tarlton) your horse shall smart for it: and so leads him to the Counter. which the Raker laught at, and (without his horse) did his worke with the rest, thinking Tarltons humour was but to iest, and would returne him his horse againe anon. But when that anon came, hee was faine to pay all his fees of the Prison, as directly as if he himselfe had been there. For if Tarlton had committed the master, the businesse had not gone forward: therfore the Horse was in prison for the Maister.

How

How *Tarlton* made *Armin* his adopted sonne to succeed him.

TArlton keeping a Tauerne in Gracious-street, he let it to another, who was indebted to Armins Master, a Goldsmith in Lombard-street yet he himselfe had a chamber in the same house. And this Armin (being then a wag) came often thither to demand his Masters money, which he sometimes had, and sometimes had not. In the end the man growing poore, told the boy hee had no money for his Master, and hee must beare with him. the mans name being Charles. Armin made this Verse, writing it with Chalke on a Waine-scot.

O world, why wilt thou lye?
Is this *Charles* the great? that I deny.
Indeed *Charles* the great before:
But now *Charles* the lesse, being poore.

Tarlton comming into the roome, reading it, and partly acquainted with the boyes humour, comming often thither for his Masters money, tooke a piece of Chalke, and wrote this Ryme by it:

A wagge thou art, none can preuent thee:
And thy desert shall content thee,
Let me diuine: As I am, so in time thou'lt be the same,
My adopted sonne therefor be,
To enioy my Clownes suite after me.

And see how it fell out. The boy reading this, so loued Tarlton after, that regarding him with more respect, hee vsed to his Playes, and fell in a league with his humour: and priuate practice brought him to present playing, and at this houre performes the same, where at the Globe on the Bankes side men may see him.

Tarltons greeting with *Bankes* his Horse.

THere was one Banks (in the time of Tarlton) who serued the Earle of Essex, and had a Horse of strange qua-

lities: and being at the Crosse-keyes in Gracious-street, getting money with him, as he was mightily resorted to; Tarlton then (with his fellowes) playing at the Bell by, came into the Crosse-keies (among st many people) to see fashions: which Banks perceiuing (to make the people laugh) saies Signior (to his horse) Go fetch me the veryest fole in the company. The Iade comes immediatel, and with his mouth drawes Tarlton forth: Tarlton (with merry words) said nothing, but God a mercy Horse. In the end Tarlton seeing the people laugh so, was angry inwardly, and said, Sir, had I power of your horse, as you haue, I would doe more then that. What e're it be, said Bankes (to please him) I will charge him to do it. Then (saies Tarlton) charge him to bring me the veryest whore-master in this company. He shall (saies Banks) Signior (saies he) bring Master Tarlton here the veriest whore-master in the company. The Horse leades his Master to him. Then God a mercy horse indeed, sayes Tarlton. The people had much ado to keepe peace: but Bankes and Tarlton had like to haue squar'd, and the horse by to giue aime, But euer after, it was a by-word thorow London, God a mercy Horse, and is to this day.

An excellent Iest of *Tarlton* suddenly spoken.

AT the Bul at Bishops-gate was a Play of Henry the 5. wherein the Iudge was to take a box on the eare: & because he was absent that should take the blow, Tarlton himselfe (euer forward to please) tok vpon him to play the same Iudge, besides his own part of the Clowne: and Knel then playing Henry the 5. hit Tarlton a sound box indeed, which made the people laugh the more, because it was he: but anon the Iudge goes in, and immediately Tarlton (in his Clownes cloathes) comes out, and askes the Actors what newes? O (saith one) hadst thou been here, thou shouldest haue seene Prince Henry hit the Iudge a terrible box on the eare. What, man, said Tarlton, strike a Iudge? It is

true

true yfaith, said the other, No other like, said Tarlton: and it could not be but terrible to the Iudge, when the report so terrifies me, that me thinkes the blow remaines still on my cheeke, that it burnes againe. The people laught at this mightily: and to this day I haue heard it commended for rare, but no marueil, for he had many of these: But I would see our Clownes in these dayes doe the like, no I warrant ye, and yet they thinke well of themselues too.

Tarltons Iest with a Boy in the street.

A Wag-halter Boy met Tarlton in the street, and said, Maister Tarlton, who lines longest? Marry Boy, sates Tarlton, he that dyes latest: and why dye men so fast, said the Boy. Because they want breath, said Tarlton: no, rather said the Boy, because their time is come: then thy time is come, said Tarlton, see who comes ponder: Who? said the Boy? Merry, said Tarlton Bull the Hangman: or one that would willingly be thy hangman: Nay, hang me then, if I employ him at this time, said the Boy. Well, said Tarlton then thou wit be hanged by thy owne confession, and so they parted.

A Iest of *Tarlton*, prouing Mustard to haue wit.

TArlton keeping an Ordinary in Pater-noster row, & sitting with Gentlemen to make them merry, would approue Mustard (standing before them) to haue wit: how so, sates one? It is like a witty skold, meeting another skold, knowing that skold will skold, begins to skold first so sates he, the Mustard being lickt vp, and knowing that you will bite it, begins to bite you first. Ile try that, sates a Gull by, and the Mustard so tickled him, that his eyes watered: how now sates Tarlton. does my iest sauour? I sates the Gull, and bite too: if you had had better wit, sates Tarlton, you would haue bit first: so then cõclude with me,

that dumbe vnfeeling Mustard hath more wit then a talking vnfeeling foole, as you are. Some were pleased, and some were not, but all Tarltons care was taken (for his resolution was euer) before he talkt any Iest.

How *Tarlton* tooke Tobacco at the first comming vp of it.

TArlton (as other Gentlemen vsed) at the first comming vp of Tabacco, did take it more for fashions sake then otherwise, & being in a roome, set between two men ouercome with Wine, and they neuer seeing the like, wondred at it; and seeing the vapour come out of Tarltons nose cryed out, Fire, fire, and threw a cup of Wine in Tarltons face. Make no more stirre, quoth Tarlton, the fire is quenched: if the Sheriffes come: it will turne to a fine, as the custome is. And drinking that againe, Fie, sayes the other, what a stinke it makes, I am almost poisoned. If it offend, saies Tarlton, let's euery one take a little of the smell, and so the sauour will quickly goe: but Tobacco whiffes made them leaue him to pay all.

Tarltons *pretty Countrey Ieſts.*

Tarltons wit betweene a Bird and a Woodcocke.

IN the Citie of Gloceſter, M. Bird of the Chappell met with Tarlton, who ioyfull to regreet other, went to viſit his friends: amongſt the reſt M. Bird of the Quéenes Chappell, viſited M. Woodcock, of the Colledge, where méeting, many friendly ſpéeches paſt, amongſt which, M. Woodcock challenged M. Brid of kin: who muſed that hee was of his affinity, and he neuer knew it: yes, ſaies M. Woodcock, euery Woodcock is a Bird, therefore it muſt néeds be ſo. Lord Sir, ſaies Tarlton, you are wide, for though euery Woodcock bée a Bird, yet euery Bird is not a Woodcock. So Maſter Woodcock like a Woodcock bit his lip, and mumbudget was ſilent.

Tarltons Ieſt of a Gridiorn.

WHile the Quéens Plaiers lay in Worceſter City to get money, it was his cuſtome for to ſtug ex tempore of Theams giuen him: amongſt which they were appointed to play the next day: now one fellow of the City amongſt the reſt, that ſéemed quaint of conceit, to lead other youths with his fine wit, gaue out, that the next day he would giue him a Theam, to put him to a non plus: diuers of his friends acquainted with the ſame, erpected ſome rare conceit. Well, the next day came, and my Gallant gaue him his inuention in two lines, which was this:

Me thinkes it is a thing vnfit,
To ſee a Gridiorn turne the Spit.

The

The people laughed at this, thinking his wit had no answere thereunto, which angred Tarlton exceedingly, and presently with a smile looking about, when they expected wonders, he put it off thus:

Me thinkes it is a thing vnfit,
To see an Asse haue any wit.

The people hooted for ioy, to see the Theame giues dasht, who like a dog with his taile betweene his legs, left the place: But such commendations Tarlton got, that hee supt with ỳ Bailiffe that night, where my Theamer durst not come, although he were sent for, so much hee vered at that vnlookt for answere.

Tarltons answer in defence of his flat nose.

I Remember I was once at a play in the Country, where as Tarltons vse was, the play being done, euery one so pleased to throw vp his Theame: amongst all the rest, one was read to this effect, word by word.

Tarlton, I am one of thy friends, and none of thy foes,
Then I prethee tell how thou cam'st by thy flat nose:
Had I beene present at that time on those bankes,
I would haue laid my short sword ouer his long shankes

Tarlton, mad at this question, as it was his propertie, sooner to take such a matter ill then well, very suddenly returned him this answere:

Friend or foe, if thou wilt needs know, marke me well,
With partinig dogs and bears, then by the ears, this chance fell:
But what of that? though my nose be flat, my credit (to saue,
Yet very well, I can by the smell,
scent an honest man from a Knaue.

Tarltons

Tarltons Iest of a Bristow man.

WHen the Quéens Players were restrained in Summer, they trauelled downe to S. Iames his Faire, at Bristow, were they were worthily entertained both of Londoners, and those Citizens: It hapned that a wealthy Citizen, called M. Sunbanke, one morning secretly married his maid; but not so secret, but it was blowne abroad. That morning Tarlton and others walking in the Faire to visit his familiar friends of London, and beeing in company of Bristow men, they did sée M. Sunbanke comming, who had his property with his necke, not to stirre it any way, but to turne body and all. It chanced at the Faire end, hee stood to pisse against a wall: to whom Tarlton came, and clapping him on the shoulder, God giue you ioy of your marriage saies he. M. Sunbanke, being taken pissing against the wall, would haue looked back to thank him, and suddenly turnes about body and all, in the view of many, and shewed all: which so abasht him, that (ashamed) hée tooke into a Tauerne, protesting that he had rather haue spent ten pound, Sure (said the Vintner) the fault is in your necke, which will not turne without the bodies assistance, and not in M. Tarlton. Call you him M. Tarlton, saies M. Sunbanke? Yea, Sir, sayes the Vintner, he is the Quéene Iester. He may be whose Iester hee will bee, but this iest agrées not with me at this time, saies M. Sunbanke.

A Iest broken of *Tarlton* by a Country Gentleman.

IN the Country where the Quéenes Players were accepted into a Gentlemans house, the waggon vnloading of the apparell, the Waggoner comes to Tarlton, & doth desire him to speake to the Steward for his horses. I will, saies he: & comming to the Steward, Sir, saies Tarlton, where shall our horses spend the time? The Gentleman loking

at Tarlton at that question, suddenly answered, If it please you, or them, let them walke a turne or two, or there is a faire garden, let them play a game or two at bowles in the Alley: & departs thence about his other business. Tarlton cõmending the sudden wit of the Steward, saith litle. But my Steward not quiet, tels to the Gentlewomen above, how he had driuen Tarlton to a non plus with a iest: where at they all did laugh heartily: which a seruingman loving Tarlton well, ranne and told him as much. Tarlton, to adde fuell to the fire, and loth to rest thus put off with a iest, goes and gets two of the horses into the garden, & turnes them into the bowling Alley, who with their heeles made hauocke: being the Gentlemans only pastime. The Ladies above from a window, seeing horses in the Garden Alley call the Knight, who cries out to Tarlton, Fellow, what meanest thou? Nothing Sir, saies he, but two of my horses are at seuen vp, for a peck of Prouender, a foolish match that I made. Now they being in play at bowles, run, run, your Steward may come after and cry rub rub: at which though they smiled, yet the Steward had no thankes for his labour, to set the horses to such an exercise, & they could not blame Tarlton, who did but as he was bidden. But by this Iest, oates and hay, stable rome, and all, was plenty.

How *Tarlton* made one of his company vtterly forsweare drunkennesse.

AT Salisbury, Tarlton & his fellowes were to play before the Maior & his brethren: but one of his company (a young man) was so drunke, that he could not: whereat Tarlton, as mad angry, as he was mad drunke, claps me on his legs a huge paire of bolts. The fellow dead asleepe, felt nothing. When all was done, they conuayed him to the Gaileon a mans back, and intreated the Iailer to doe God good seruice, and let him lye there til he waked. While they were about their sport, the fellow waked, & finding himselfe in durance, & the Iaile hung round with bolts & shackles, he

he began to blesse himselfe, & thought sure in his drunkennesse hee had done some mischiefe. With that hee called to know, but none came to him: then hee thought verily his fault was capitall, and that hee was close prisoner. Byand by comes the Keeper, and mooned him, that one so yong should come to so shamefull a death as hanging. Anon another comes, and another with the like, which further put him in a puzzle. But at last comes Tarlton, and others, intreating the Keeper, yet if it might bee, that they might see their fellow ere they went, But hee very hardly was intreated. But at length the poore drunken Signior cals out for them. In they come. Oh Tom, saies Tarlton, hard was thy hap, in drunkennes to murder this honest man, and our hard hap too, to have it reported, any of our company is hang'd for it. O God, O God, saies the fellow, is my fault so great? then commend me to all my friends. Well, short tale to make, the fellow forswore drunkennes, if hee could escape, and by as cunning a wile (to his thinking) they got him out of prison by an escape and sent him to London before who was not a litle glad to be gone. But see how this iest wrought: by little & little the fellow left his excessive drinking, and in time altered his desire of drunkennes.

How *Tarlton* saued his head from cutting off.

TArlton upon a time being in the Country, and oging in an homely Inne, during which time there was a Gentleman dwelling in the same towne, some what frantick and distraught of his wits: which mad-man on a sudden rusht into Tarltons bed-chamber, with his sword drawne, and finding him there in bed, would haue slaine him: saying, Villaine, were it not valiantly done to strike off thy knaues head at one blow? Tarlton answerd, Tut, Sir, that's nothing with your Worship to doe: you can as easily strike off two heads at one blow, as one: wherefore, if you please, Ile goe downe and call up another and so you may strike of both our heads at once. The mad man believed him, and so let him slip away.

How *Tarlton* escaped imprisonment.

TArlton having bin domineering very late one night, with two of his friends, and comming homewards along Cheape-side, the Watch being then set, M. Constable asked, Who goes there? Three merry men, quoth Tarlton. That is not sufficient, What are you, qd. M. Constable? Why, saies Tarlton, one of vs is an eye-maker, & the other a light-maker. What saiest thou, knaue, doest mocke me? the one is an eye-maker, the other a light-maker, which two properties belong vnto God onely: commit these blasphemers quoth the Constable. Nay, I pray you, good M. Constable, be good in your Office, I will approue what I haue said, to be true qd. Tarlton. If thou canst saies the Constable, you shall passe, otherwise you shall be all three punished. Why (qd. Tarlton) this fellow is an eye-maker, because a Spectacle-maker; and this other a maker of light, because a Chandler, that makes your darkest night as light as your Lanthorn. The Constable seeing them so pleasant, was well contented. The rest of the Watchmen laughed: & Tarlton with his two companions went home quietly.

How *Tarlton* deceiued a Country Wench

THe Queene players trauelling into the west Country to play, and lodging in a little Village, some ten miles from Bristow, in which village dwelt a pretty nut-browne Lasse, to whom Tarlton made proffer of marriage, protesting, that he came from London purposely to marry her. The simple maid being proud, to bee beloued by such a one whom she knew to bee the Queenes man, without more intreatie, yeelded: and being both at the Church together, and M. Parson ready to performe his duty, and comming to the words of I Richard take thee Ioane: nay, stay good Master Parson, I will goe and call my fellowes, and com-

se you againe: so going out of the Church in haste, returned at leisure; for, having his horse ready saddled, he rode toward Bristow, and by the way told his fellowes of his successe with his Wench.

How *Tarlton* went to kill Crowes.

IT chanced vpon a time, as Tarlton went forth with a Birding peece into the fields to kill Crowes, he espied a Daw sitting in a tree, at which hee meant to shoot; but at the same instant, there came one by, to whome hee spake in this manner: Sir, quoth he, yonder I see a Daw, which I will shoot at if she sit: if she sit, said the other, then she is a Daw indeed: but, quoth Tarlton, if shee sit not, what is she then? Marry, quoth the other a Daw also: at which words she immediately flew away: whereupon, Tarlton spake merrily in a Rime, as followeth:

Whether a Daw sit, or whether a Daw fly,
Whether a Daw stand, or whether a Daw lye,
Whether a Daw creepe, or whether a Daw cry,
In what case soeuer a Daw persеuer,
A Daw is a Daw, and a Daw shall be euer.

How a poore Begger-man ouer-reached *Tarlton* by his wit.

AS Tarlton vpon a day sate at his owne doore, to him came a poore old man, & begged a peny for the Lords sake: whereupon Tarlton hauing no single mony about him askt the begger what mony he had: no more mony, Maister, but one single peny. Tarlton, being merrily disposed, called for his peny, and hauing receiued it, gaue it to his Boy to fetch a pot of Ale: wherewith the Begger grew blanke, and began to gather vp his wits, how to get it againe: the pot of Ale, for the beggers peny, being brought, he proffered to

drinke to the Begger. Nay, stay a while, Master, quoth the Begger, the vse is, where I was borne, that he that payes for the drinke, must drinke first. Thou saist well, quoth Tarlton; goe to, Drinke to me then. Whereupon the begger tooke the Pot, saying, Here, Master, I drinke to you, (and therwithall dranke off euery drop) now Master, if you will pledge me, send for it as I haue done. Tarlton séeing himselfe so ouer-reacht, greatly commended the Beggers wit, and withall in recompence thereof, gaue him a Teaster: with that the Begger said, that hee would most truely pray to God for him. No answered Tarlton, I pray thée pray for thy selfe, for I take no vsury for almes-deeds.

Of *Tarltons* pleasant answere to a Gallant by the high-way side.

IT was Tarltons occasion another time to ride into Suffolke, being furnished with a very leane large horse: and by the way, a lusty Gallant met him; and in mockage asked him, what a yard of his horse was worth? Marry Sir, quoth Tarlton, I pray you alight, and lift vp my horses Taile, and they in that shop will tell you the price of a yard.

How *Tarlton* would haue drowned his Wife.

VPon a time, as Tarlton and his Wife, (as passengers) came sailing from Southampton towards London, a mighty storme arose, and endangered the Ship, whereupon, the Captaine thereof charged euery man to throw into the Sea the beauiest thing hée could best spare, to the end to lighten some-what the Ship. Tarlton, that had his Wife there offered to throw her ouer-bord: but the company rescued her; and being asked wherefore he meant so to doe? he answerd, She is the beauiest thing I haue, and I can best spare her.

How

How *Tarlton* made his Will and Testament.

OF late there was a Gentleman liuing in England, that whersoeuer he dined, would of euery dish conuey a modicum thereof into his Gowne sléeue: which Gentleman being vpon a time at dinner at a Gentlemans house in the Country, there he vsed his aforesaid qualitie, in the company of Master Tarlton, who perceiuing it, said thus vnto the company: My Masters, I am now determined before you all, to make my last Will and Testament: And first, I bequeath my soule to God my Creator, and my body to be buried in the sléeue of yonder Gentlemans Gowne: and with that, stepping to him, he turned vp the Gowne sléeue, wherout, here dropt a bird, and there a bird, with choice of much other good chéere, still shaking it, saying, I meant this sléeue, Gentleman, this sléeue I meant.

How *Tarlton* called a Gentleman Knaue by craft.

VVIthin a while after, as the same Gentleman and Tarlton passed thorow a field together, a Crow in a Trée cried Kaw, Kaw sée yonder, Tarlton, quoth the Gentleman, yonder Crow calleth thee knaue. No, Sir (he answered) he beckens to your Worship as the better man.

Tarltons Iest of a Country Wench.

TArlton going towards Hogsdon, met a country maid comming to market, her Mare stumbling, downe shée fell ouer, & ouer, shewing all that euer God sent her, and then rising vp againe, shée turned her round about vnto Master Tarlton, and said, Gods body Sir, Did you euer sée the like before? No: in good sooth, quoth Tarlton, neuer but once in London.

How

How *Tarlton* deceiued an Inne-holder at Sandwich.

VPon a time, when the Players were put to silence, Tarlton and his Boy frolicked so long in the Country, that all their money was gone, and being a greate way from London, they knew not what to doe; but as want is the whetstone of wit, Tarlton gathered his conceit together, and practised a trick to beare him vp to London without money, and thus it was: Vnto an Inne in Sandwich they went, and there lay for two daies at great charge, although he had no money to pay for the same: the third morning he bade his man goe downe, and male-content himselfe before his Host and his Hostesse, and mumbling say to himselfe, Lord, Lord, what a scald Master doe I serue? this it is to serue such Seminarie Priests & Iesuites: now euen as I am an honest Boy, Ile leaue him in the lurch, and shift for my selfe: heres adoe about Penance and Mortification, as though (forsooth) Christ hath not dyed enough for all. The Boy mumbled out these his instructions so dissembling, that it strooke a iealousie in the Inne-holders heart, that out of doubt his master was a Seminarie Priest; whereupon, he presently sent for the Constable, and told him all the foresaid matter, & so went vp both together to attache Tarlton in his chamber, who purposely had shut himselfe close in & betaken him to his knees, and to his crosses, to make the matter seeme more suspitious: which they espying through the key-hole, made no more adoe, but in they rushed, & arrested him for a Seminarie Priest, discharged his score, bore his, & his boyes charges vp to London, and there in hope to haue rich rewards, presented him to M. Fleetwood, the old Recorder of London. but now marke the Iest; when the Recorder saw Tarlton, and knew him passing well, entertained him very courteously, and all to befool'd the Inne-holder, & his mate, and sent them away with flea's in their eares: but when Tarlton sawe himselfe discharged out of their

hands,

hand he stood iesting & pointing at their folly, and so taught them by cunning, more wit & thrift against another time.

Of *Tarltons* Wrongfull accusation.

VPon a time Tarlton was wrongfully accused for getting of a Gentlemans Maid with childe, and for the same, brought before a Iustice in Kent, which Iustice said as followth: It is a marualle (M. Tarlton) that you being a Gentleman of good qualitie, and one of her Maiesties seruants, would venture thus to get maides with childe: Nay rather (quoth Tarlton) were it marueil, if a maid had gotten me with childe.

Tarlton deceiued by a Country wench.

TArlton trauelling to play abroad, was in a Towne, where in the Inne was a pretty maid, whose fauour was placed in a corner of Tarltons affection: and talking with her, shee appoynted to meet him at the bottome of a paire of staires. Night and the houre came, and the maid subtilly sent downe her Mistresse: whom Tarlton catching in his armes, Art come, wench, saies hee? But alas, sayes the Mistres, not knowing who it was. Tarlton hearing it was the Mistres, start aside, and the maid came downe with a candle, and shee espyde a glimpse of Tarlton in the darke, who stept into another roome. How now, Mistres, said the maid? Something (said shee) affrighted me, some man sure, for I heard him speake. No, no, Mistresse, said the Maid, it is no man, it was a Bull-calfe that I shut into a roome, till Iohn our Pounder came to haue pounded him for a stray. Had I thought that (said she) I would haue hit him such a knocke on his forehead, that his hornes should neuer haue grac'd his Coxcombe. and so she departs by againe afraid. But how Tarlton tooke this iest, thinke you.

How *Tarlton* could not abide a Cat, and deceiued himselfe.

IN the Country Tarlton told his Hostesse he was a Coniurer. O sir (sayes she) I had pewter stolne off my shelfe the other day, help me to it, and I will forgiue you all the pots of Ale you owe mee, which is fifteene dozen. Sayes Tarlton, To morrow morning the Diuell shall helpe you to it, or I will trounce him. Morning came, and the Hostesse and he met in a roome by themselues. Tarlton, to passe the time with exercise of his wit, with Circles and trickes fals to coniure, hauing no more skill then a dogge But see the ieft, how contrarily it fell out: as he was calling out, mons, pons, simul & fons, and such like, a Cat (vnexpected) leapt from the gutter window, which sight so amazed Tarlton, that he skipt thence, & threw his Hostesse downe, so that he departed with his fellowes, and left her hip out of ioynt, being then in the Surgeons hands, & not daring to tell how it came.

How *Tarlton* and his Hostesse of *Waltham* met.

TArlton riding with diuers Citizens his friends, to make merry at Waltham, by the way hee met with his Hostesse riding toward London, whom hee of old acquaintance saluted. Shee demands whither they went. Tarlton told her, to make merry at Waltham. Sir (saies she) then let me request your company at my house at the Christopher, and (for old familiaritie) spend your money there. Not vnlesse you go backe (saies Tarlton) we will else goe to the Hound. But she (loth to lose their custome) sent to London by her man, & goes backe with them, who by the way had much mirth, for she was an exceeding merry honest woman yet would take any thing: which Tarlton hearing, as wise as he was (thinking her of his minde) he was deceiued: yet he

he askt her if the biggest bed in her house were able to hold two of their bignesse (meaning himselfe & her) Yes (saies she) and tumble vp and downe at pleasure. Yea, one vpon another, saies Tarlton? And vnder tw, saies she. Well, to haue their custome, she agreed to every thing, like a subtill Hostesse, and it fell so out that Tarlton hauing her in a roome at her house, askt her which of those two beds were big enough for them two, This, saies she: therefore goe to bed sweet-heart, Ile come to thee. Wafe (saies Tarlton) were my Bootes off, I would indeed. I'le help you, Sir (saies she) if you please. Yea (thought Tarlton) is the wind in that doore? come on then. And she very diligently begins to pull till one boot was halfe off. Now (saies she) this being hard to doe, let me try my cunning on the other, and so get off both. But hauing both halfe off his legs, she left him alone in the Shoo-makers stocks, and got her to London where Tarlton was three houres, and had no helpe. But being eased of his paine, he made this Ryme for a Theame, singing of it all the way to London:

Women are Wanton, and hold it no sinne,
By tricks and deuices to pull a man in.

Tarltons meeting with his Countrey acquaintance at *Ilford*.

ON a Sunday, Tarlton rode to Ilford, where his father kept: and dining with him at his Sisters, there came in diuers of the Countrey to see him, amongst whom was one plaine Countrey plough-iogger, who said hee was of Tarltons kin, & so called him cousin. But Tarlton demanded of his father if it were so: but he knew no such matter; whereupon saies Tarlton, whether he be of my kin or no, I will be cousin to him ere we part, if all the drinke in Ilford will do it. So vpon this they carouzed freely, & the Clowne he was then in his Cue so that (in briefe) they were both in soundly. Night came, and Tarlton would not let his cousin goe, but they would lye together that night, meaning in-

deed at their departure next morning. Tarlton would by wit leaue him in the lash, since power would not. But see the iest: That night the plaine fellow so pist Tarlton in his bed, thinking he had been against the Church wal, that he was faine to cry for a fresh shirt to shift him, So when al was well, they must néeds drinke at parting: where indéed (to seale kindred soundly) the fellow had his loade: for hearing that his cousin Tarlton, was gone to London, zounds he would follow, that he would, none could hold him: and meaning to goe towards London, his aime was so good, that he went towards Rumford to sell his Hogs.

How a Maid draue *Tarlton* to a Non-plus.

TArlton méeting with a wily Country wench, who gaue him quip for quip: Sweet heart (said hee) would my flesh were in thine. So would I, Sir (saies shée) I would your nose were in my, I know where. Tarlton angred at this, said no more, but goes forward.

Tarltons answere to a question.

ONe askt Tarlton why Munday was called Sundaies fellow. Because he is a lauish fellow (saies Tarlton) to compare with that holy day. But, it may be, Munday thinkes himselfe Sundayes fellow, because it followes Sunday, and is next after: but he comes a day after the Faire for that. May (saies the fellow) but if two Sundayes fall together, Munday then may be the first, and it would shew well too. Yes (saies Tarlton) but if thy nose stood vnder thy mouth, it would shew better, and be more for thy profit. How for my profit, saide the fellow? Marry (saide Tarlton) neuer to be cold in winter, being so néere euery dogs taile. The fellow séeing a foolish question had a foolish answere, laid his legges on his neck, and got him gone.

Tarltons

Tarltons desire of enough for money.

TArlton comming into a Market towne, bought Oates for his horse, and desired enough for money: the man said, You shall, Sir, and gaue him two halfe pecks for one. Tarlton thought his Horse should that night fare largely, and comes to him with this Rime.

Iack Nag, be brag, and lustie braue it,
I haue enough for mony, and thou shalt haue it.

But when Iack Nag smelt to them, they were so musty, that he would none (God thanke you, Master) which Tarlton seeing, runns into the Market, and would slash and cut, But till the next Market day the fellow was not to be found, and before then Tarlton must be gone.

How *Tarltons* Dogge lickt vp six pence.

TArlton in his Trauaile had a Dogge of fine qualities, amongst the rest, he would carry six pence in the end of his tongue, of which he would brag often, and say neuer was the like. Yes, saies a Lady, mine is more strange, for he will beare a French crowne in his mouth: no, sayes Tarlton. I thinke not: lend me a French crowne, saies the Lady, and you shall see. Truly Madame, I haue it not, but if your Dog will carry a crackt English crowne, here it is: but the Lady perceiued not the iest, but was desirous to see the dogs trick of six pence. Tarlton threw down a teaster, and said, Bring, Sirra: and by fortune the Dog toke vp a Counter, and let the money lie: a Gentlewoman by, seeing that, askt him how long he would hold it? An houre, saies Tarlton: that is pretty, said the Gentlewoman, let's see that: meane time she toke vp the fiue pence, and willed him to let them see the money againe: when he did see it, it was a Counter, and he made this Rime.

Alas, alas, how came all this to passe?
The world's worse thē it was: For siluer turnes to brasse.

I, saies the Lady, & the dog hath made his master an Asse: but Tarlton would neuer trust to his dogs tricks more.

Tarltons Iest of a horse and a man.

IN the Cittie of Norwich, Tarlton was on a time inuited to an hunting: where there was a goodly Gentlewoman, that brauely mounted on a blacke horse, rode exceeding well, to the wonder of all the beholders, and neither hedge nor ditch stood in her way, but Pegasus her horse (for so may we tearme him for swiftnesse) flew ouer all, and she sate him aswell. When euery one returned home, some at Supper commended his Hound, others his Hawke, and She aboue all, her Horse: and, said she, I loue no liuing creature so well (at this instant) as my gallant horse: yes Lady, a man better, saies Tarlton. Indeed no, said she, not now: For since my last husband dyed, I hate them most, vnlesse you can giue me medicines to make me loue them. Tarlton made this iest instantly:

Why, a Horse mingeth Whay, Madam, a Man mingeth Amber,
A Horse is for your Way, Madam, but a man for your Chamber.

God a mercy, Tarlton, said the men: which the Gentlewoman noting, seeing they tooke exceptions at her words, to make all well, answerd thus:

That a Horse is my chiefe opinion now, I deny not.
And when a man doth me more good in my chamber, I him defie not.

But till then giue me leaue to loue something: then something will please you, said Tarlton, I am glad of that, therefore I pray God send you a good thing, or none at all.

Tarltons

Tarlton talke with a pretty Woman.

GEntlewoman, said Tarlton, and the rest as you sit, I can tell you strange things: now many Gallants at Supper noted one woman, who being little and pretty, to vnfit her prettinesse, had a great wide mouth, which she seeming to hide, would pinch in her speeches, and speak small, but was desirous to heare newes. Tarlton told at his comming from London to Norwich, a Proclamation was made that every man should haue two wiues. How Iesus, qd. she is it possible? I Gentlewoman, and otherwise able too, for contrarily women haue a larger preeminence, for euery womã must haue three husbands: Now Iawsus, said the Gentlewoman, and with wonder shewes the full wideneſſe of her mouth, which all the table smil'd at: which she perceiuing, would answere no more. Now Mistris, said Tarlton, your mouth is lesse then euer it was, for now it is able to say nothing. Thou art a cogging knaue, said she. Wasse, and that is something yet, said Tarlton, your mouth shall be as wide as euer it was, for that Iest.

A iest of *Tarlton* to a great man.

THere was a great huge man, 3. yards in the waste, at S Edmondsbury in Suffolk, that dies but of late daies, (one M. Blague by name) & a good kinde Iustice too, carefull for the poore, this Iustice met with Tarlton in Norwich: Tarlton, said he, Giue me thy hand: But, you Sir, being richer, may giue me a greater gift, giue me your body: and imbracing him, could not halfe compasse him: being merry in talke, said the Iustice: Tarlton, tell me one thing, what is the difference betwixt a Flea and a Louse? Marry, Sir, said Tarlton, as much and like difference, as twixt you and me: I like a Flea (see else) can skip nimbly: But you, like a fat Louse creepe slowly, and you can goe no faster, were a

But,

Butchers are euer you, ready to knock you on the head. Thou art a knaue, quoth the Iustice. I, Sir, I knew that ere I came hither, else I had not been here now, for euery one knaue (making a stop) strikes out another: the Iustice vnderstanding him, laughed hartily.

Tarltons Iest to a Maid in the darke.

TArlton going in the darke, groping out his way, heared the tread of some one to meet him. Who goes ther, saies he? A man, or a monster? said the Maid, A monster: said Tarlton, A candle hoe: and seeing who it was, indeed said he, A monster, Ile be sworne: for thy teeth are longer then thy beard. O Sir, said the Maid, speake no more then you see, for women goe inuisible now adaies.

Tarltons Iest to a Dogge.

TArlton & his fellowes, being in the Bishop of Worcesters Seller, and being largely laid to, Tarlton hyes his route, and going through the streets, a Dogge (in the middle of the street, asleep, on a dunghill) seeing Tarlton reele on him, on the suddaine barkt. How now, Dog, saies Tarlton, are you in your humors? and many dates after, it was a by-word to a man being drunke, that he was in his humors.

22 N 69

FINIS.

Butchers are ouer you, ready to knock you on the head: Thou art a knaue, quoth the Iustice. I, Sir, I knew that ere I came hither, else I had not been here now, for euer one knaue (making a stop) seekes out another: the Iustice vnderstanding him, laughed hartily.

Tarltons Iest to a Maid in the darke.

TArlton going in the darke, groping out his way, heares the tread of some one to meet him. Who goes ther, saies he? A man, or a monster? said the Maid, A monster: said Tarlton, A candle hoe: and seeing who it was, indeed said he, A monster, Ile be sworne: for thy teeth are longer then thy beard. O Sir, said the Maid, speake no more then you see; for women goe inuisible now adaies.

Tarltons Iest to a Dogge.

TArlton & his fellowes, being in the Bishop of Worcesters Seller, and being largely laid to, Tarlton had his rouse, and going through the streets, a Dogge (in the middle of the street, asleep, on a dunghill) seeing Tarlton reele on him, on the suddaine barkt. How now, Dog, saies Tarlton, are you in your humors? and many daies after, it was a by-word to a man being drunke, that he was in his humors.

22 JY 69.

FINIS.

Untitled,
mpleted by Title & one leaf M.S.
R. Smith - 1848 - £F/R/ -